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## **Retailers Get Ready to Cash In on NC Education Lottery**

**RALEIGH** - With the launch of the first-ever N.C. Education Lottery (NCEL) just days away, retailers across the state are gearing up for what is expected to be a lot of scratching going on. To help make sure the launch goes as smoothly as possible, the NCEL is sending out last minute instructions to retailers.

The NCEL sales staff has distributed the "Lottery Times" to the over 5,000 retailers who are expected to begin selling tickets on Thursday, March 30. Also, starting this week, retailers will be able to get news updates on the Education Lottery's Web site.

Here are some of the last minute reminders for retailers:

1. Keep all terminal equipment connected, plugged in and powered on as we must be able to transmit data to and communicate with the terminal continuously.
2. Keep the NCEL hotline number (877-382-4530) handy to call for terminal service, instant ticket orders, retailer services, and security.
3. Confirm your instant ticket shipment on your terminal upon receipt.
4. Activate your packs of tickets for each game one at a time before offering them for sale. The first pack may be activated after 6 a.m. on March 30. When you activate the second pack of one game, the first pack will automatically settle.
5. Remember to properly display tickets and keep dispensers full at all times.
6. Keep tickets in a secure location until ready for sale.
7. Remember to print invoices off the terminals Sunday morning in order to keep up with the amount of money that is due the NCEL. The amount will be swept from bank accounts on Tuesday.
8. Customers must be at least 18 to purchase an Education Lottery ticket.
9. You should be prepared to pay out any prize under \$600.

At the start of the games, four different games will be available – two \$1 tickets, one \$2 ticket, and one \$5 ticket. More games will be introduced in a couple of weeks.

The NCEL will transfer 100 percent of the net proceeds from the ticket sales to the state lottery fund for education. The proceeds will be used to fund pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk four-year-olds, class size reduction, school construction, and provide college scholarships to need-based individuals.

For additional information about the N.C. Education Lottery, visit its website at [www.lottery.nc.gov](http://www.lottery.nc.gov), or call 919/715-6886 (71-LOTTO).